



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park  
International Peace Park  
Biosphere Reserve  
World Heritage Site

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## Glacier National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release  
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### Vehicles Line Up to Drive Sun Road

*Flowers are in Bloom and More than 600 Miles of Trails are Open to Hikers*

WEST GLACIER, MONT.-When the gate opened at Avalanche Wednesday morning, between 100 and 120 vehicles were lined up to drive the Going-to-the-Sun Road. The entire 50 mile length of the Sun Road is open between 10am and 6pm daily. At other times, visitors can drive from the west entrance of the park up to Avalanche Campground and between St. Mary and Logan Pass. (Avalanche to Logan Pass is open only for day use, 10am-6pm)

Bright arrays of flowers are in bloom along the Sun Road. In areas where wildfires have occurred, there is a mosaic pattern of green, brown and black depending on the intensity of the fire.

Because of potential hazards and congestion, vehicles are not allowed to stop on a seven (7) mile stretch of the Sun Road (3.5 miles on either side of the Loop). Road signs designate the "No Stopping" section. Visitors are welcome to stop at the various pullouts along the Sun Road above and below the "No Stopping" section for excellent views of the valley and the Trapper Creep fire. For safety reasons, bicycles are currently not allowed between Avalanche and Logan Pass.

Some areas of Glacier National Park are currently closed due to proximity of wildfires burning within the park. The status of area closures are subject to change. Daily updates are available on the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/glac/pdf/bc2003web.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/glac/pdf/bc2003web.pdf). While Granite Park Chalet, along with some roads, campgrounds, trails and off-trail areas are closed in the vicinity of the Trapper Creek and Wedge Canyon fires, approximately 75 percent of the park is open. Only 16 of Glacier's 65 backcountry campgrounds are closed because of the fires and hikers have access to 605 of the park's 735 miles of trails. Trail status is available at <http://www.nps.gov/glac/activities/trails.htm>. Heavens Peak is currently closed to climbers because of the proximity of the Trapper Creek fire.

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Concession and business operations in the Lake McDonald Valley have reopened to provide visitors with food, lodging, tours and boat rentals. Lake McDonald is open to private boaters and boat tour operators.

The south, east and northeast portions of Glacier National Park continue to welcome visitors. Belly River, Goat Haunt, Many Glacier Valley, St. Mary, Rising Sun, Two Medicine, East Glacier and Cut Bank offer hiking, camping and other activities.

Four major wildfires continue to burn in Glacier National Park. The Robert fire is located north and west of the West Glacier/Apgar area. The Trapper Creek fire is in the north central portion of the park, primarily northwest of the Loop. The Wedge Canyon fire is in the remote northwest corner of the park, next to the Flathead National Forest. The Wolf Gun fire is on the south side of Logging Lake. Because of the dry conditions, no open flames are allowed in Glacier National Park. Smoking is only allowed inside vehicles and buildings where permitted.

Smoke conditions change depending on local weather conditions. Visibility in the park can be checked by viewing Glacier's web cams at [www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew.htm](http://www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew.htm). Updates on air quality are available at [www.flatheadhealth.org/commonhealth/firealerts.htm](http://www.flatheadhealth.org/commonhealth/firealerts.htm). Current information on the fires is available at the Interagency Joint Information Center at (406)755-3910. It is also available at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/ciimt5/ac/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/ciimt5/ac/)

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